

Serial No.: 10/019,122

Applicant: BRAND, Fabien et al.

Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2004

Atty. Ref.: 11836.0677.PCUS00 PA-00089

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

- 1. (Currently Amended): A water based wellbore fluid comprising a fluid loss additive and a bridging material, wherein the fluid loss additive is [[that are]] hydrophobic in nature, hydrophobically modified or oil wettable; and, wherein the bridging material is hydrophobic in nature, hydrophobically modified or oil wettable.
- 2. (Previously Presented): A fluid according to claim 1, wherein said fluid loss additive is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobically modified starch, polyanionic cellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, or hydrophobically modified synthetic polymers.
- 3. (Previously Presented): A fluid according to claim 2 wherein said starch is a polymerised starch or a starch modified by hydroxymethylation, hydroxypropylation, by other hydroxyalkylations or by crosslinking reactions.
- 4. (Previously Presented): A fluid according to claim 1, wherein said bridging solid is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobically modified inorganic salts, or hydrophobic or hydrophobically modified inorganic or organic material.
- 5. (Currently Amended): A water based wellbore fluid comprising a fluid loss additive and a bridging material, wherein the fluid loss additive is hydrophobic in nature, hydrophobically modified or oil wettable; and, wherein the bridging material is hydrophobic in nature, hydrophobically modified or oil wettable. A fluid according to claim 4, wherein said bridging solid is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobically modified inorganic salts, or hydrophobic or hydrophobically modified inorganic or organic material, wherein said inorganic salts or inorganic material are selected from the group consisting of



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hydrophobically coated calcium carbonates, zinc carbonates, barium carbonates, hematite, ilmenite, magnesium oxide, barite, silica particles, clay particles, or microspheres.

- 6. (Previously Presented): A fluid according to claim 5, wherein the hydrophobic coating is selected from the group consisting of fatty oils, fatty acid, fatty esters, carboxylated hydrophobic material.
- 7. (Currently Amended): A fluid according to claim 1 wherein the bridging agent is a ground crystalline material of melting point over 80°C, preferably over 10°C which is readily soluble in produced hydrocarbons and which exhibits a molecular weight of less than 1000, and preferably less than 650.
- 8. (Previously Presented): A fluid according to claim 7, wherein said bridging agent is selected from the group consisting of 1-S-endo-Borneol, camphor, beta carotene, lycophene, cholesterol, lanosterol, or agnosterol.
- 9. (Canceled)
- 10. (Currently Amended): A method of drilling, completing, working-over, or killing a wellbore wherein a water based wellbore fluid is used comprising a fluid loss additive and a bridging material, wherein the fluid loss additive is hydrophobic in nature, hydrophobically modified or oil wettable; and wherein the bridging material is [[that are]] hydrophobic in nature, hydrophobically modified, or oil wettable.
- 11. (Currently Amended): A method of fracturing or gravel packing a wellbore using a water based wellbore fluid comprising a fluid loss additive and a bridging material, wherein the fluid loss additive is hydrophobic in nature, hydrophobically modified or oil wettable; and wherein the bridging material is [[that are]] hydrophobic in nature, hydrophobically modified, or oil wettable.
- 12. (Currently Amended): The fluid according to claim 2, wherein the hydrophobically modified sythetic synthetic polymer is poly-hydroxypropylmethacrylate.



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13. (Previously Presented): The fluid according to claim 3, wherein the crosslinking reaction agents are phosphorus oxychloride, epichlohydrin, cyanuric chloride, or formaldehyde.

- 14. (Previously Presented): The fluid according to claim 6, wherein the hydrophobic coating is sulfanated, sulfated, or phosphonated hydrophobic material, surfactants that would generate a hydrophobic coating, or organosilane grafting agents.
- 15. (Previously Presented): The fluid according to claim 7, wherein the bridging agent is readily soluble in crude oil or lighter condensates.

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